

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 26, 2001, the Examiner rejected all pending claims (Claims 1-9 and 17-20) of the present application under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,645, to Fredlund et al. (hereinafter "Fredlund"); U.S. Patent No 6,212,304, to Durg et al. (hereinafter "Durg"); and U.S. Patent No. 5,685,657, to Jablonski (hereinafter "Jablonski"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits the following.

Claim 17 has been cancelled and its subject matter has been incorporated into Claim 1. The method of Claim 1, as amended, generally includes five steps. First, referring to FIGURE 3A of the present application, a plurality of basic designs (A-D) for imprinting onto wallpaper are created. As illustrated, each of the basic designs is formed of contiguous panel portions, and a customer can select one or more contiguous panel portions, which may be less than all the panel portions forming the basic design. Each of the basic design does not have a repeating pattern, and yet customer-selectable portions of the basic design (i.e., one or more contiguous panel portions) provide coherent subdesigns. Second, still referring to FIGURE 3A, copies of the basic designs are displayed on a medium suitable for customer viewing. Third, wallpaper design-customizing information is received from a customer. The information includes at least one basic design selected from the plurality of basic designs, at least one coherent subdesign selected within the at least one selected basic design, color scheme selected, and features personal to the customer to be added to the at least one selected subdesign. For example, referring to FIGURE 1, only panel portions 1-4 or 3-6 may be selected. Fourth, the digital image of the at least one selected subdesign is modified to include the customizing information to produce a customized design. Fifth, the customized design is printed onto a suitable medium for decorative use.

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The invention as recited in amended Claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior art references cited and applied against the present application. Specifically, Fredlund describes a method of combining a customer-generated digital image with a prestored digital image. Figure 2 illustrates a sample prestored digital image, including three locations: 102, 104, and 106 for receiving customer-generated images or text as shown in Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C, respectively. Figure 4 illustrates a resulting merged image 114. To better match the resulting image 114 with the overall theme of the customer's room, to which the image is to be placed, the image can be further customized. Specifically, a background portion 122 of the image 114 can be modified to match the wallpaper 123 of the customer's room. This is accomplished by taking a piece of the wallpaper 123 and scanning it with a digital scanner into a computer. Figure 5 illustrates a modified, merged image 114 resulting from this process.

Thus, Fredlund describes a method of combining a prestored digital image with a customer-generated image and further customizing the resulting image. Fredlund does not teach or suggest a method to create wallpaper, in particular, wallpaper comprised of contiguous panel portions, from which less than all can be selected to form a contiguous design.

With respect to Durg and Jablonski, applicant merely notes that neither of these patents teaches or suggests a method of creating customized wallpaper comprised of contiguous panel portions, from which less than all can be selected to form a contiguous design. Therefore, neither Durg or Jablonski cures the deficiency of Fredlund.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of Claim 1, as amended, is allowable over any of the cited and applied prior art references, either alone or in any combination. Accordingly, an early and favorable action allowing all pending claims (Claims 1-9 and 18-20) and passing the present application to issue is respectfully solicited. If

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the Examiner has any remaining issues to resolve, he is invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the below date.

Date: July 25, 2001



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